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GREETING.—Speaking, if he may, for the members of the American Folk-Lore Society, and for all students of Folk-Lore with whom the Journal has come into contact, the incoming Editor thanks his predecessor and colleague for the generous and unstinted services which he has always placed at the disposal of our science. America, especially, owes to him much it can never pay. Founded under his auspices, directed by him so long with admirable discretion and ability, the Journal has been one of the makers of science for the new century. Could he not continue to count upon the wise counsel and long experience of the one who has gone before, his successor would hesitate, still more than he has done, to follow him. That he remains as Associate Editor is matter for felicitation. The future years of the Journal will, it is hoped, be the continuance of the rich and fruitful harvest of the past.

*Alexander F. Chamberlain.*

FOLK-LORE INVESTIGATIONS IN AUSTRALIA.—According to "Nature" (vol. lxiii. p. 88): "Early in the summer [of 1900] a memorial was submitted to the governments of South Australia and Victoria, praying that facilities might be granted to Mr. Gillen, one of the inspectors of aborigines, and Prof. Baldwin Spencer, for the continuance of their investigations into the habits and folk-lore of natives of Central Australia and the Northern Territory. The memorial, which was signed by all British anthropologists and many prominent representatives of other sciences, has met with a prompt and generous response. The government of South Australia has granted a year's leave of absence to Mr. Gillen, and the government of Victoria has provided a substitute for Professor Spencer during his absence from Melbourne." The sum of £1000 has been contributed towards the ordinary expenses of the expedition by Mr. Syme, the proprietor of the Melbourne "Age." The party starts in February, and, after a careful study of the tribes of the MacDonnell Range, will travel along the Roper River towards the Gulf of Carpentaria, and, if there be time, will also proceed down the Daly and Victoria rivers. It is fully expected that, with favorable conditions of weather, etc., the explorers will meet with a success as brilliant as that which fell to their expeditions of three years ago.

THE VALUE OF THE EPIC FOR SOCIOLOGY.—Writing of "Sociology and the Epic" (Amer. Journ. of Sociol., vol. vi. 1900, pp. 267-271), Mr. A. G. Keller notes the great gain that would accrue to sociological science, "if the workers on the grand scale could have at their service separate monographs which would undertake impartially to gather and systematize the sociological material in such documents as the Vedas, the Zend-Avesta, the Eddas, the Hebrew Scriptures, the Kalevala, the Nibelungen Lied, the Homeric poems, and the like." The writer then indicates briefly the merits of the Iliad and the Odyssey in this respect, holding them to be more or less "universal and unbiased." Judged in this way, the Homeric poems, he thinks, appear to advantage when compared with certain Russian and German epic compositions.